

8 JANUARY 2001



Weather

**ATMOSPHERIC AND SPACE
ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT**

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(Maj Tom Neu)
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(Brig Gen David L. Johnson)
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This directive establishes the framework for Air Force atmospheric and space environmental support and services.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

1. Information on the state of the atmosphere and space environment, termed aerospace weather, is an essential element of Air Force planning and operations. Commanders must integrate the impacts of aerospace weather into strategy, tactics, operations, and systems. This directive governs activities to provide uninterrupted aerospace weather observations, forecasts, advisories, warnings, and special services to support national security operations.
2. The Air Force will provide timely, accurate, and relevant aerospace weather support to the US Air Force, US Army, their Reserve and National Guard agencies, national programs, and other military and Government agencies, as required.
3. This directive establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:
 - 3.1. The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Staff are responsible for policy and resource advocacy and allocation for aerospace weather support provided by the Air Force.
 - 3.2. The Director of Weather, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations, Headquarters United States Air Force (HQ USAF/XOW) is responsible for planning, programming, budgeting, and budget execution; publishing policy and standardized procedures; providing career field functional management (organize, train, equip, readiness); and assessing technical performance and effectiveness for aerospace weather support.

3.3. The Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA), a field operating agency (FOA), is responsible for preparing Air Force instructions and manuals to implement policy; managing standard system programs; consolidating and analyzing technical performance and effectiveness indicators; and providing technical assistance to field units for aerospace weather support. AFWA serves as a strategic center providing the full spectrum of centralized aerospace weather data and products to include numerical weather prediction, meteorological satellite, space environment, and climatology.

3.4. Air Force major commands (MAJCOM) and FOAs are responsible for establishing standard procedures to implement policy; monitoring the readiness of forces to support wartime and contingency commitments; evaluating technical performance and effectiveness; and arranging technical assistance to field units for aerospace weather support.

3.4.1. Operational Weather Squadrons (OWS) use strategic center and indigenous data and products to satisfy the aerospace weather support requirements of customers operating within their geographic area of responsibility (AOR).

3.4.2. Combat Weather Teams (CWT) are collocated and fully integrated with Air Force, Army, and Special Operations Forces to apply aerospace weather to the warfighter's decision-making processes.

3.5. Commanders, at all levels, are responsible for implementing effective procedures in compliance with Air Force policies; organizing, training, and equipping forces; and meeting quality standards for aerospace weather support.

4. This directive implements national policies documented in Department of Defense Directive 5100.73, *Major Department of Defense Headquarters Activities*; War Department Circular No. 138, *Army-Air Force Agreements: Initial Implementation of the National Security Act of 1947*; Office of Management and Budget Memorandum, *Coordination of Federal Meteorological Services*; Joint Committee for Space Environmental Forecasting memorandums; Public Law 92-205, December 18, 1971; and HQ USAF Program Action Directive (PAD) 97-10, *Reengineering Actions for Air Force Weather*.

5. See [attachment 1](#) for measuring and displaying compliance.

6. See [attachment 2](#) for references and supporting information.

F. WHITTEN PETERS
Secretary of the Air Force

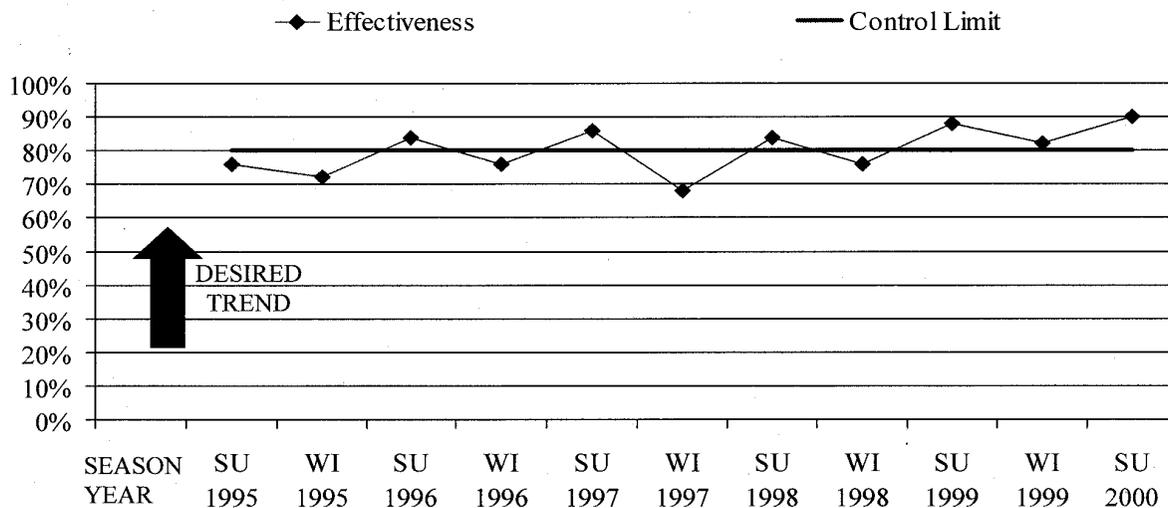
Attachment 1

MEASURING AND DISPLAYING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

A1.1. To measure compliance with this policy directive, units will measure how effective they have been at satisfying the operational aerospace weather support requirements of their customers. All units will work with their customers to establish support criteria that are meaningful to operations, verify their performance against these criteria, and report selected results as directed by their MAJCOM, FOA, or direct reporting unit (DRU) headquarters.

A1.1.1. RCS: HAF-XOW (M) 9202, *Weather Support Evaluation Report*. By the 15th of each month, units will submit the preceding month's aerospace weather support operational effectiveness data and technical performance data (AF Form 3810, **Weather Warning and Weather Advisory Data**), if applicable, to their MAJCOM, FOA, or DRU headquarters. Refer to AFI 15-114, *Weather Support Evaluation*, for specific definitions and procedures.

Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of Weather Support Effectiveness.



Attachment 2**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 15-107, *Weather Modification*

AFMAN 15-111, *Surface Weather Observations*

AFMAN 15-112, *Upper Air Observations*

AFMAN 15-113, *Weather Radar Observations*

AFI 15-114, *Weather Support Evaluation*

AFI 15-118, *Requesting Specialized Weather Support*

AFMAN 15-124, *Meteorological Codes*

AFMAN 15-125, *Weather Station Operations*

AFI 15-128, *Aerospace Weather Operations - Roles and Responsibilities*

AFMAN 15-129, *Aerospace Weather Operations - Processes and Procedures*

AFJI 15-157, *Weather Support for the US Army*

AFMAN 15-162, *Space Weather Observations*

AFI 15-180, *Air Force Weather Standardization and Evaluation Program*